



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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January 2, 2001

Eugene Tuttle
Natural Organic Fertilizer, Inc.
1409 Lubbock Highway
Lamesa, Texas 79331

Re: Acceptance of Amended Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations, Natural Organic Fertilizer, Inc., Sam #116 Project, S/019/052 (UTU-78692), County, Utah

Dear Mr. Tuttle:

On December 18, 2000, the Division received your amended notice forwarded by the Moab BLM Field Office for the Natural Organic Fertilizer, Inc. Sam #116 small mine project located in SE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 9, T19S, R25E, SLBM, Grand County, Utah.

The Division has evaluated the amendment information as a response to our October 12, 2000 deficiency letter and provides the following clarifications:

Prior to excavating the ore a motor grader will be used to grub vegetation and the sparse soil off the area into a pile. The Division prefers grubbed vegetation be left in the soil stockpile rather than being burned. The grubbed vegetation should be left in the stockpile to increase the organic content of the limited soil resources for use in final reclamation.

The pit excavation will be created using a dozer to rip the surface, using a trackhoe to excavate the ore, and using a front end loader to load the ore onto haul trucks for transport to the separate milling site located on private land being permitted under Division file S/019/054.

The pit will be created by excavating a series of sections two to four feet thick over the entire pit area. Outer edges of the pit will be sloped to industry standards. The Minerals Rules require all pit highwalls to be left at a slope of 45 degrees or less unless a variance has been granted.

There will be no overburden generated by this operation. All material which will be excavated will be crushed and processed as ore. No waste dumps will be created.

The existing access road is estimated as being eight feet wide and 3,000 feet long. This road is proposed to be bladed to a 12 foot width for the entire length. The Minerals Rules would include the increased road width as part of the small mine disturbed area; therefore,

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approximately 0.275 acres of disturbance will be affected by the access road. A portion of the existing road proposed to be widened in section 16, T9S, R25E, crosses land managed by the School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA). Please note that you may need approval from SITLA prior to making improvements to the road passing through section 16.

Several variances have been requested in this amendment submission. A documented site inspection is required prior to granting any variances. A site inspection by BLM or Division staff should be performed prior to operations to verify the lack of salvageable topsoil and absence of vegetative cover in the project area.

With the above clarifications regarding your amendment, the information provided in the notice meets the requirements of Rule R647-3 of the 1988 Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Minerals Rules, and Title 40-8, et seq., of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975. No additional information is required by the Division at this time unless these clarifications are in error. The requested variances cannot be granted until a documented site inspection has been performed. Starting operations prior to a documented site inspection may impair later justification for the variances.

By copy of this letter, the Division will notify the BLM Moab Field Office of our permitting status. **Please note that you will also require BLM approval prior to beginning operations located on BLM managed land.** Please reference our designated file number S/019/052 when forwarding additional information on this project to us. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Gallegos
Senior Reclamation Specialist

jb
cc: Roger L. Bon, UGS
Sal Venticinque, BLM FO
Will Stokes, SITLA w/copy of 12/18/00 amendment
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